

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A device for blocking or impeding the flow of water through the overflow drain of a bathtub of the type including a wall, an overflow drain opening in the wall, and a generally circular cover plate over the overflow drain opening, the cover plate having an annular skirt with at least one overflow opening in the annular skirt at the bottom of the cover plate, said device comprising:

a stopper including an arcuate surface configured so as to cover the overflow opening, said stopper being made of a material and configured so as to be held in place, when water level in the bathtub is above the overflow opening, by water pressure or buoyancy only;

whereby said stopper, once held in place, falls away from the overflow opening when water level in the bathtub subsequently drops below the cover plate.

2. The device of claim 1, wherein said stopper includes a locating boss projecting from said arcuate surface and sized so as to fit within the overflow opening.

3. The device of claim 1, which is for blocking the overflow drain of a bathtub wherein the cover plate has a pair of overflow openings in the annular skirt separated by an intermediate wall; wherein

said stopper includes a pair of locating bosses projecting from said arcuate surface and sized so as to fit within the overflow openings, respectively.

4. The device of claim 1, wherein said stopper includes a tether attachment aperture.

5. The device of claim 3, wherein said stopper includes a tether attachment aperture.

6. The device of claim 1, wherein said stopper comprises vinyl.

7. The device of claim 1, wherein said stopper is made of a material which has substantially neutral buoyancy in water.

8. The device of claim 1, wherein said stopper is made of a material which has a positive buoyancy in water.

9. A method for blocking or impeding the flow of water through the overflow drain of a bathtub of the type including a wall, a drain opening in the wall, and a generally circular cover plate over the drain opening, the cover plate having an annular skirt with at least one overflow opening at the bottom of the cover plate, said method comprising:

employing a stopper which includes an arcuate surface configured so as to cover the overflow opening, and which is made of a material and configured so as to be held in place, when water level in the bathtub is above the overflow opening, by water pressure or buoyancy only, whereby the stopper, once held in place, falls away from the overflow opening when water level in the bathtub subsequently drops below the cover plate.

10. The method of claim 9, which further comprises tethering the stopper.